



Indiana Department of Revenue

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2005

Contact: Stephanie McFarland, APR
Office: 317/234-3793
Mobile: 317/696-3275

Preliminary results show Indiana Tax Amnesty well exceeded the goal

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 18, 2005) – Incomplete results show the Indiana Tax Amnesty program collected \$197.7 million in delinquent state taxes, three times more than projected. More than 50 percent of amnesty collections came from out-of-state delinquent taxpayers.

The legislature's target for amnesty collections was \$65 million.

Working with an Indiana company, amnesty representatives made more than 400,000 telephone calls and mailed more than 700,000 postcards and letters to notify delinquent taxpayers of the opportunity.

Today's collection figures are preliminary. Hundreds of payments are still arriving by mail, as amnesty payments had to be postmarked by the Nov. 15 deadline. The agency will provide final numbers sometime in the coming weeks.

"This is one of those rare occasions when even I can't find much room for improvement," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "We've taken not just one but three steps forward toward a balanced budget, and amnesty will pay dividends for years to come. We've added thousands of businesses and individuals to our tax roles, we've identified thousands of out-of-state businesses that should have been helping Hoosiers fund our government, and we learned a ton about the ways businesses and wealthy individuals have sometimes avoided their obligations."

The governor proposed amnesty as part of his overall program to reduce the state's budget deficit. Rep. Eric Turner, R-Marion, sponsored the measure, with co-authors Rep. Richard McClain, R-Logansport; Rep. Luke Messer, R-Shelbyville, and Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington. The Senate sponsor was Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, and the co-sponsor was Sen. Murray Clark, R-Indianapolis. The governor signed HEA 1004 into law on May 12, 2005.

According to the preliminary results, more than 68,000 people have taken advantage of the Indiana Tax Amnesty program. The Department of Revenue took more than 12,000 phone calls and worked with more than 7,000 walk-in customers as long lines formed in Revenue offices throughout the state during the final two days of amnesty.

"This was a collection effort, and it has served its purpose well," said Revenue Commissioner John Eckart. "Now, we shift our efforts to enforcement." Revenue will step up its enforcement efforts, including initiating litigation against those who were eligible for amnesty but did not participate, said Eckart.

"Many of those suits will target individuals and businesses outside of Indiana," he said.

###

Indiana Government Center North, Indianapolis, IN 46204